

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01  
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AMEMBASSY ROME  
USMISSION USBERLIN  
USMISSION USNATO  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 16024

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: NATO, PEPR, UR, GR, CY  
SUBJECT: PRAVDA ARTICLE DENIES CHANGE IN SOVIET  
POSITION ON CYPRUS

SUMMARY: JULY 8 PRAVDA ARTICLE ATTEMPTS TO REBUT  
CHARGES IN GREEK PRESS OF CHANGE IN SOVIET POSITION ON  
CYPRUS ISSUE. GREEK DIPLOMATS PROFESS LACK OF CONCERN  
OVER ECEVIT VISIT AND STATE THAT GREEK EMBASSY RECEIVED  
ASSURANCES FROM SOVIET MFA ON CYPRUS POSITION. CENTRAL  
PRESS HAS INEXPLICABLY CARRIED NUMBER OF RECENT  
ARTICLES CRITICAL OF GREEK PARTICIPATION IN NATO  
MANEUVER "TRIDENT." END SUMMARY.

1. (BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED) AN ARTICLE BY PRAVDA'S  
ATHENS CORRESPONDENT, V. DROBKOV, IN THE JULY 8  
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PRAVDA PROVIDES A LOW KEY SOVIET REBUTTAL TO CON-  
TINUED REPORTS OF SOME CHANGE IN MOSCOW'S POSITION  
ON THE CYPRUS QUESTION. DROBKOV CRITICIZES A RECENT  
ARTICLE IN ATHENS PAPER, KATIMERINI (WHICH USUALLY  
REFLECTS GOVERNMENT LINE, HE SAYS), ON IDEA OF DOUBLE  
ENOSIS FOR CYPRUS. RATHER THAN UNMASKING SUCH  
"BEHIND SCENES MANEUVERS OF NATO STATES" (I.E., PROMOTION

OF DOUBLE ENOSIS), KATIMERINI, SAYS DROBKOV, ATTEMPTED TO DISTORT "PRINCIPLED POLICY" OF USSR ON CYPRUS. BOTH IN CYPRUS AND IN GREECE, WRITES DROBKOV, "CONSISTENT POLICY" OF SOVIET UNION TOWARD CYPRUS IS WELL KNOWN, I.E.,:

-- JUST SETTLEMENT ON BASIS OF UN DECISIONS;

-- RESPECT FOR CYPRUS' POLICY OF NON-ALIGNMENT SO THAT CYPRIOTS WOULD BE INSURED THEIR SOVEREIGN RIGHT, WITHOUT ANY PRESSURE AND INTERFERENCE FROM ABROAD, TO DECIDE FATE OF THEIR OWN MOTHERLAND.

GOV'T. OF CYPRUS AS WELL AS GREEK GOV'T., ADDS DROBKOV, AGREES WITH WELL KNOWN SOVIET POSITION ON CONVOCATION, UNDER UN AEGIS, OF INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CYPRUS WHICH MIGHT BRING ABOUT A RESOLUTION OF INTERNATIONAL ASPECTS OF THE CRISIS.

2. WHILE DROBKOV ARTICLE IS ONLY SOVIET MEDIA PIECE WHICH EMBASSY HAS SEEN WHICH TACKLES THIS PARTICULAR THEME, AND WHICH ATTEMPTS TO SOOTHE GREEK FEARS OVER CYPRUS, THERE HAVE BEEN A NUMBER OF PRESS ARTICLES LATELY (PRAVDA, JULY 1 AND 5, KZ, JULY 9) WHICH HAVE BEEN CRITICAL OF GREEK PARTICIPATION IN NATO IONIAN SEA NAVAL MANEUVERS, "TRIDENT," AS WELL AS OF SEC. CONFIDENTIAL

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DEF. BROWN'S ALLEGED SENATE TESTIMONY ON U.S. CONTINGENCY PLANS FOR INTERFERENCE IN GREEK INTERNAL AFFAIRS "ON OCCASION OF ANY SITUATION" - I.E., IN EVENT U.S./NATO POSITION IN GREECE WERE THREATENED. (END UNCLASSIFIED)

3. COMMENT: DROBKOV'S ATTEMPT TO LAY TO REST PERSISTENT REPORTS OF A CHANGE IN MOSCOW'S CYPRUS POSITION MAY BE LESS THAN TOTALLY SUCCESSFUL SINCE SIGNED ARTICLES IN PRAVDA ARE NOT CONSIDERED PARTICULARLY AUTHORITATIVE, SINCE DROBKOV DOES NOT PROVIDE A DETAILED RECOUNTING OF ALL ASPECTS OF MOSCOW'S POSITION, AND MOST IMPORTANT SINCE DROBKOV IGNORES THAT ASPECT OF THE "PROBLEM" WHICH HAS CONTRIBUTED TO MEDIA SPECULATION, I.E., THE COMMUNIQUE'S SUPPORT FOR THE INTER-COMMUNAL TALKS. MATTER MAY REMAIN SLIGHTLY UP IN AIR UNTIL THE GREEK FOREIGN MINISTER'S VISIT HERE IN SEPTEMBER.

4. ON JULY 6 POL COUNSELOR AND EMBOFF WERE GIVEN SEPARATE, RATHER PLACID ACCOUNTS OF GREEK EVALUATION OF ECEVIT VISIT RESULTS BY GREEK EMBASSY DCM BOTZARIS

AND VETERAN CULTURAL AND PRESS COUNSELOR DEMATHAS.  
BOTZARIS TOLD EMBOFF THAT GREEK EMBASSY HAD  
SOLICITED AND RECEIVED SOVIET MFA ASSURANCE THAT  
THERE WAS NO CHANGE IN SOVIET POLICY TOWARD CYPRUS.

5. CLEARLY SOVIETS, IN THEIR WAY, ARE TRYING TO  
SMOOTH TROUBLED WATERS OVER CYPRUS QUESTION. IN  
THIS CONTEXT, WE FIND SOVIET CRITICISM OF GREEK  
PARTICIPATION IN "TRIDENT" EXERCISE TO BE SOMEWHAT  
INEXPLICABLE, AND EXCEPT FOR FACT THAT THIS  
CRITICISM HAS BEEN REPEATED, WE WOULD TEND TO THINK  
IT WAS JUST ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF SOVIET MALADROITNESS.  
MATLOCK

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## Message Attributes

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